The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

4

Story & Art by
Aya Shouoto

Story & Art by Aya Shouoto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

Four-Leaf Clover
and a Pinkie Promise
CHAPTER
12

Four-Leaf Clover and a Pinkie Promise

CHAPTER 12

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

4

Contents

CHAPTER 12 Four-Leaf Clover and a Pinkie Promise | 007

CHAPTER 13 Sunset Fox: Part 1 | 049

CHAPTER 14 Sunset Fox: Part 2 | 091

CHAPTER 15 A Treasure Trove of Surprises?! | 123

The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

Aoi Nanamori

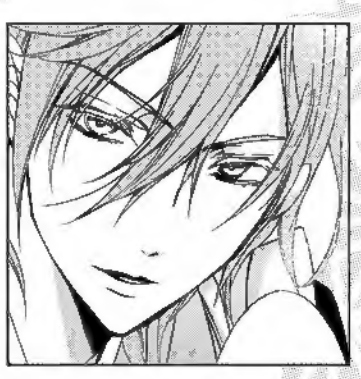
When he was 7 years old, he wandered into Momochi House and was chosen as the Omamori-sama. He transforms into a nue to perform his duties, but it seems this role was meant for Himari.

Omamori-sama (Nue)

An ayakashi, or demon, with the ears of a cat, the wings of a bird, and the tail of a fox. As the Omamori-sama, the nue protects Momochi House and eliminates demons who make their way in from the spiritual realm.

Yukari

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's a water serpent.



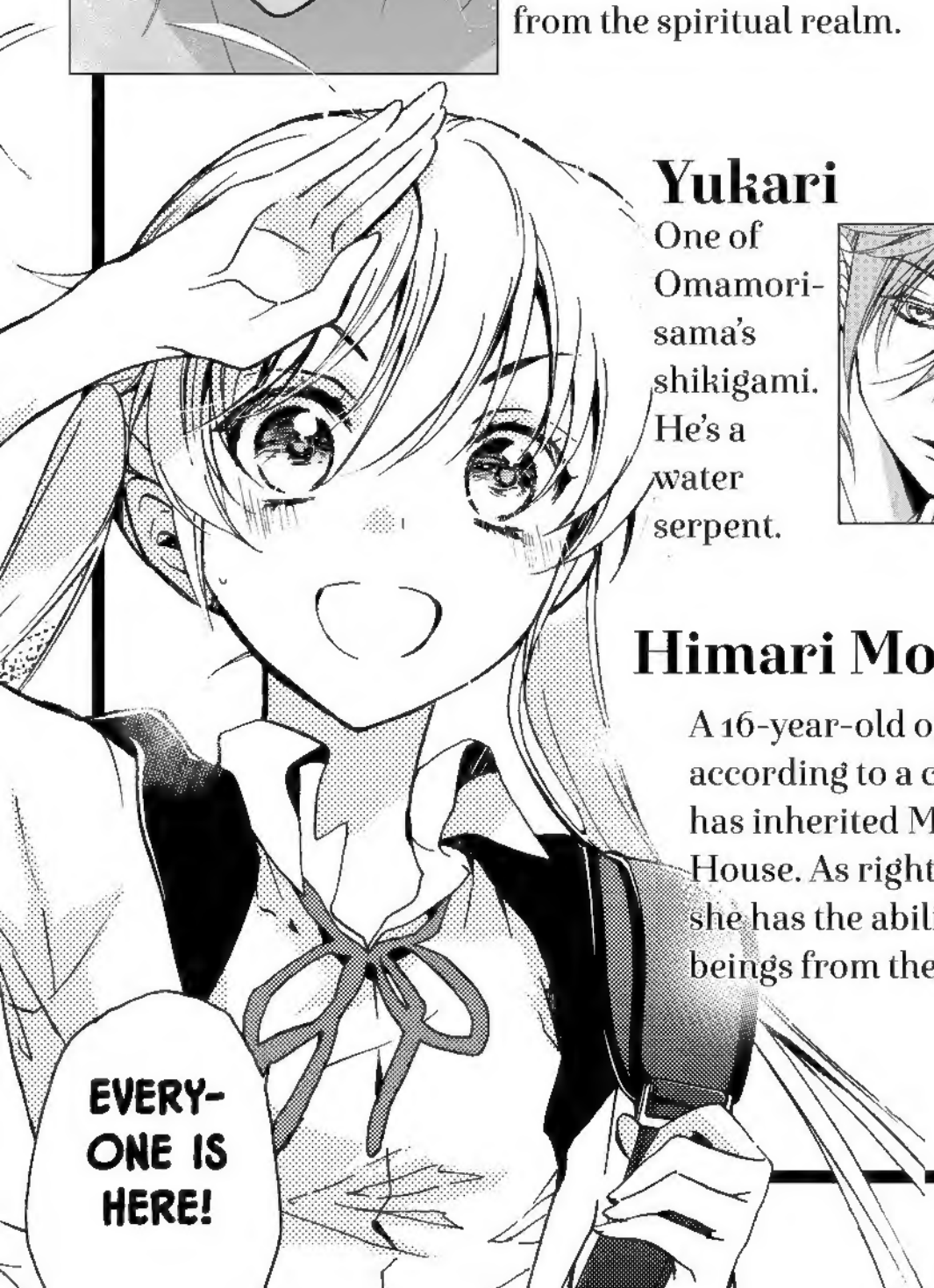
Ise

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's an orangutan.

Himari Momochi

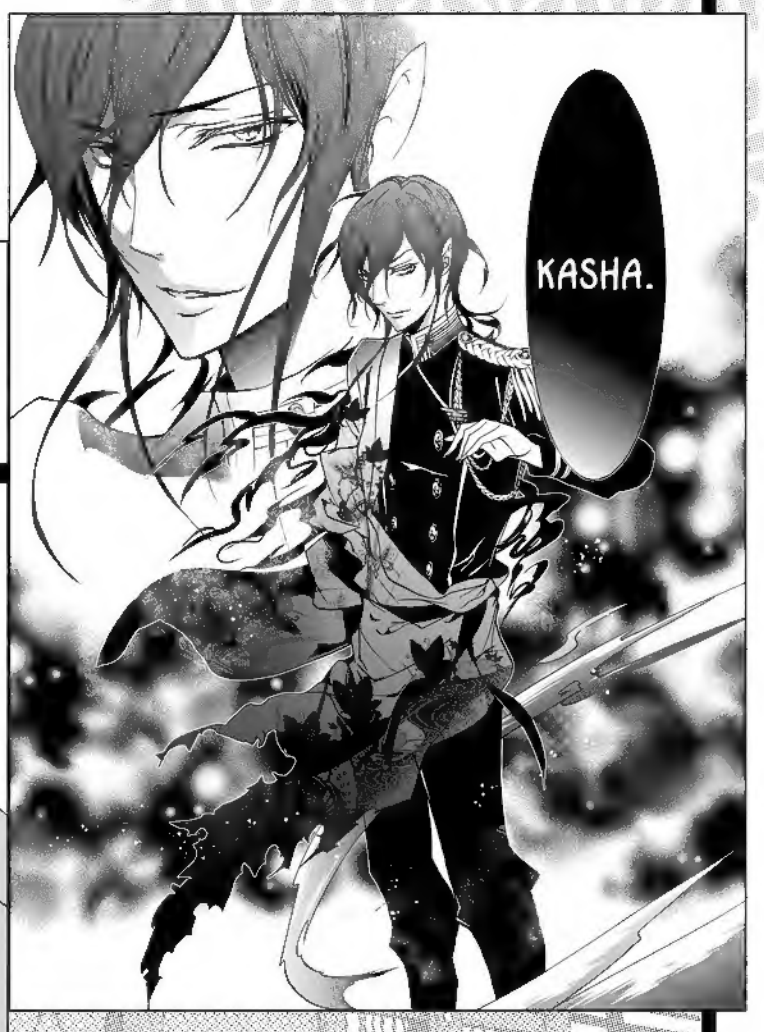
A 16-year-old orphan who, according to a certain will, has inherited Momochi House. As rightful owner, she has the ability to expel beings from the house.

Lesser Yokai



Momochi House: Story Thus Far

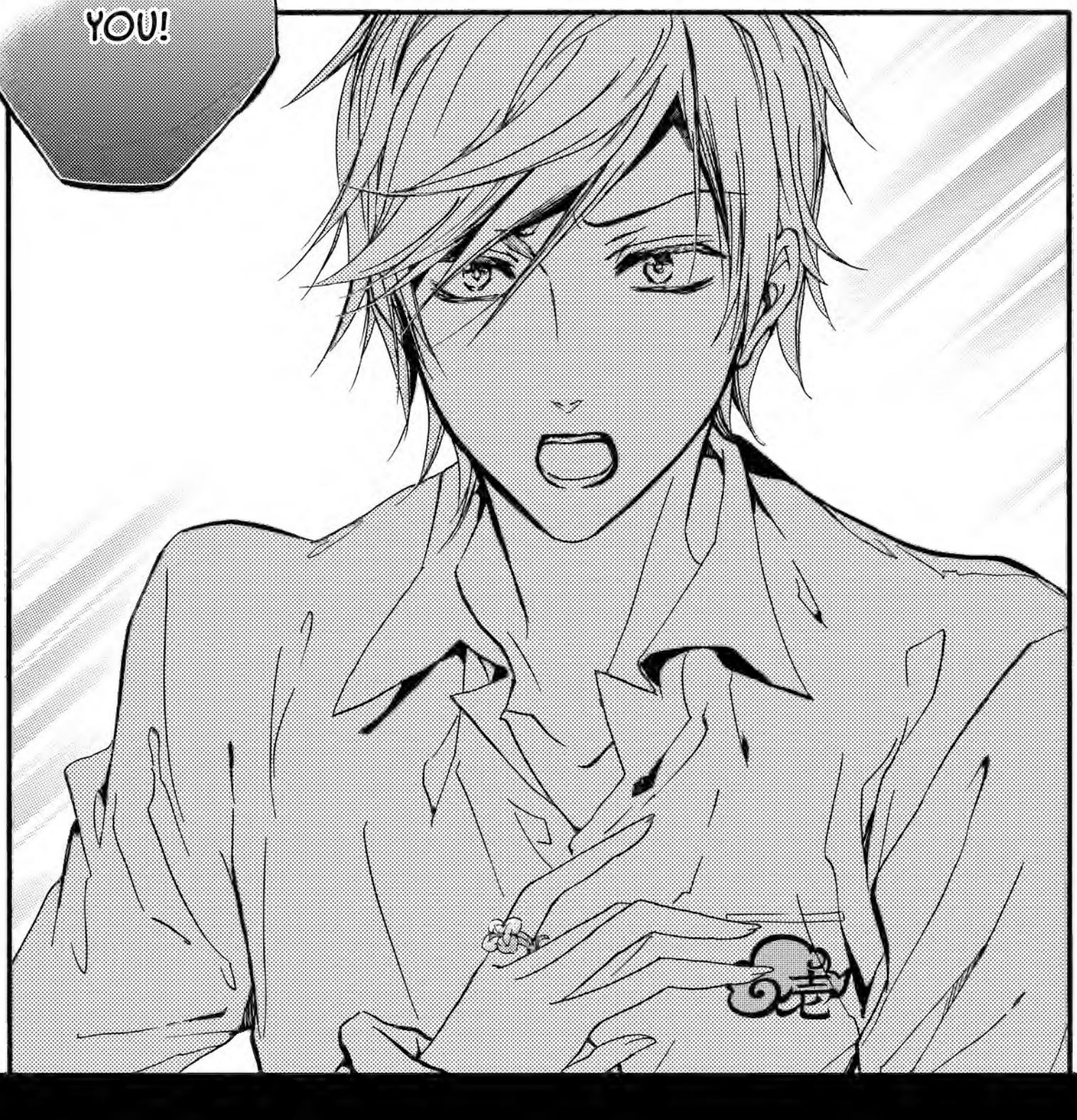
Four of Himari's friends from school visit Momochi House. But a great demon by the name of Kasha has entered the house by pretending to be one of them. Kasha's appearance forces Aoi to the brink of becoming a true demon... Later, Aoi invites Himari to an area deep within Momochi House that she has never before seen. A great number of ayakashi are celebrating the Nue's Resealing Rite. The rite is successful and Himari and her friends go back to their normal lives. Aoi makes Himari a four-leaf clover ring as a token of thanks for aiding him. Himari happily wears the ring to school, but one boy has a strong reaction the instant he sees it...



WHO...

...MADE THAT FOR YOU?!

TELL ME WHO GAVE THAT TO YOU!



WHO IS THIS PERSON?!

I RK~

IT WAS AO-

W-WELL EXCUSE ME FOR NOT FITTING THE TYPE!

YOU DON'T LOOK THE TYPE.

WHO WAS IT?!

HUH? OH, THIS...

DID YOU MAKE IT?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

A FAMILY MEMBER ...?

I MEAN, A FAMILY MEMBER MADE IT.

HIMARI MOMOCHI.

MOMOCHI.

MOMOCHI...

MOMOCHI
...

I DON'T KNOW THAT NAME.

IT DOESN'T RING A BELL.

MMBL

MMBL

OH

...WOULD YOU LET GO OF MY HAND?

IN THAT CASE...

HE SUDDENLY APPEARED AND THEN LEFT...

DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, HIMARI.

AH! HEY...

...

SWIP

HIDAKA...

HIDAKA HASN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL FOR A WHILE.

HE'S STILL ACTING ODDLY AS USUAL.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HAYATO HIDAKA, RIGHT?

HE COMES TO SCHOOL FOR A FEW DAYS WHEN HIS ATTENDANCE GETS TOO LOW.

AND HE ALWAYS SAYS WEIRD THINGS... HE'S KIND OF SCARY.

SCARY?

YEAH, THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND...

...BUT THE RUMORS ABOUT HIDAKA SEEM TRUE BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE ACTS.

THOSE RUMORS ABOUT MOMOCHI HOUSE BEING HAUNTED TURNED OUT TO BE FALSE...

Sorry...

UM.

I've heard that before.

CURSED?

...THAT THE HIDAKA FAMILY IS CURSED.

A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO GOT TO KNOW HIM REALLY DID GET HURT.

THAT'S WHY EVERYONE THINKS HE'S CURSED.

...

IT'S NOT A CURSE.

SENOO...

AHEM

IT'S A HEREDITARY SPELL.

MY GRANDMA SAYS THE HIDAKA FAMILY...

...DESCENDED FROM FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS.

ULP

SO IT'S NOT TECHNICALLY A CURSE—

SHUT UP, YOU OCCULT FREAK!

FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS...

HAYATO HIDAKA...

HE CERTAINLY HAS A STRANGE AIR ABOUT HIM.

THAT GIRL...

...IS INTERESTING...

TMP

TMP

I DON'T THINK ANYONE BESIDES AOI COULD MAKE THIS IN SUCH A DISTINCT WAY.

DID HIDAKA REACT TO IT BECAUSE HE KNOWS AOI?

HM.

DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH AYAKASHI?

VERY INTER-ESTING...

SWFF

I HOPE HE'S NOT ANOTHER ONE OF AOI'S ANNOYING ACQUAIN-TANCES...

TMP

TMP

OR...

I WONDER IF TALKING TO AOI WILL SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS.

HEH

...WILL HE JUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT LIKE USUAL?

HEH

OH

HUH?

SWIPE

"WHERE AM I?"

HEH HEH

"I WAS ALMOST HOME"...

TAP

ACK!

WHERE AM I?

HE CAN READ MY MIND?

AN AYAKASHI!

YOU'RE LOST, HUH...

HEH HEH

YOU CAN'T GET HOME...

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

ONLY IF...

THE RING AGAIN.

...YOU GIVE ME WHAT'S ON YOUR FINGER.

WHAT? THIS FOUR-LEAF CLOVER?

YOU CAN'T HAVE THIS. CHOOSE SOMETHING ELSE...

NO, IT HAS TO BE THAT RING.

BUT...

...AOI GAVE THIS TO ME...

...

HIMARI?

...

KR'SSH

I HEAR SOME-ONE!

OH

SOME-ONE'S INTER-FERING...

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

I'LL BE BACK FOR IT...

IT'S A PROMISE.

FWOOSH

I'M ON THE PATH AGAIN..

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

AH...

THUD

HIMARI!

WHY WERE YOU ZONING OUT IN FRONT OF THE GATE?

YEEN

YOU MADE A PROMISE WITH AN AYAKASHI?

BUSH

GYAAAH

WHY ARE YOU NAKED AGAIN?!

...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO, BUT...

HE LED YOU INTO THE SPIRITUAL REALM, RIGHT?

THE SPIRITUAL REALM WHERE AYAKASHI LIVE...

I WENT TO GREET HIMARI AT THE GATE IN THIS FORM...

...AND SHE GREETED ME WITH VIOLENCE!

Listen to this!

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE...

HIMARI DOESN'T LIKE NUDITY.

YOU DID WELL, ZUSHI.

THAT AYAKASHI MIGHT FOLLOW HER AROUND FOR A WHILE.

YUKARI, BRING THAT OUT.

He praised me!

YES.

THIS IS FOR YOU, HIMARI.

WHAT IS THIS?

MY SMART PHONE THAT EXPLODED?

I MADE MY OWN SPECIAL MODIFI-CATIONS.

I CAN'T ALWAYS BE WITH YOU...

...SO WHENEVER YOU'RE IN DANGER, CALL ME AND I'LL SEND A SHIKIGAMI.

WOOD

BUT DOES THIS EVEN WORK?

I'M SO HAPPY AOI DID THIS FOR ME...

THANK YOU...

MOVED

OH, I USE THIS LESSER YOKAI.

Amazing

WOW!

An ayakashi cell phone!

HELLO, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Aoi

WHOA!

YOUR VOICE!

JUST GIVE IT TO HIM.

What a pain.

UH...

DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S SOME LESSER YOKAI PULLING A PRANK ON HER?

HE PROBABLY THINKS IT WILL BOOST HIS POWERS BECAUSE AOI MADE IT.

THE PROBLEM IS THE PROMISE YOU MADE WITH THAT MASKED AYAKASHI.

NOW THEN...

I'M SURE HE'LL COME FOR THAT RING AGAIN.

GEH...

Why do I have to do this?

LET'S MAKE ANOTHER RING AND LEAVE IT WITH SOME INARIZUSHI OUTSIDE THE GATE.

ISE, LOOK FOR A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER. ZUSHI, HELP ME COOK SOME RICE.

I'LL HELP!

YUKARI...

*_Inarizushi_ is a pouch made of fried tofu filled with rice. Inari, the Shinto fox god, is said to be fond of them.

A FAMILY DESCENDED FROM FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS...

A MASKED AYAKASHI...

IS HE CONTROLLING THAT AYAKASHI?

...AT SCHOOL...

AH...

THERE WAS ANOTHER PERSON WHO WAS INTERESTED IN THIS RING...

AOI.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE NAMED HAYATO HIDAKA?

AO-

YEAH.

I DO.

HE WAS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

"WAS"?

OH

HE SIMPLY TOLD ME.

WHAT?

YES.

HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME ANYMORE.

AH...

WHEN AOI BECAME THE OMAMORI-SAMA, HIS EXISTENCE WAS ERASED FROM THE HUMAN WORLD.

EVERYONE HAS FORGOTTEN HIM.

BUT AOI...

AOI...

...REMEMBERS THEM.

IF THERE'S SOME-ONE...

...WHO REMEMBERS YOU-

DOESN'T HE WANT TO MEET HIM?

THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST.

HEH

WE LIVE IN DIFFERENT WORLDS.

...REJECTION.

...NOT TO DO ANYTHING UNNECESSARY.

I COULD ALMOST HEAR HIM SAYING...

FOR A SECOND HIS EXPRESSION CHANGED, THEN...

IS HAYATO HIDAKA INVOLVED SOMEHOW?

AOI'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND...

A FAMILY DESCENDED FROM FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS...

A MASKED AYAKASHI WHO WANTS MY RING...

A FOX?!

VOOM

SIGH

ALL THIS THINKING IS KEEPING ME AWAKE.

OH

KLAK

I'M SURE HE'LL COME FOR THAT RING AGAIN.

AAH!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

...

HUH? AOI?

WAS HE THE NUE FOR AN INSTANT?

ARE YOU HALF-ASLEEP? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

OH... IT'S NOTHING.

WHY ARE YOU UP SO LATE?

AOI...

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD SLEEP NEXT TO YOU.

GRAB

...

BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

SHOVE SHOVE

THAT'S YOUR USUAL PATTERN!

I'm not falling for it!

HIMARI?
WE LIVE IN DIFFERENT WORLDS.

KLAK

GOOD NIGHT.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, AOI.

I'LL STAY WITH YOU.

WOW!

IS THAT HUNK OF METAL AN AYAKASHI?! SO COOL!

THIS HAS A MOUTH. IS THIS AN AYAKASHI TOO?!

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...

BAM

WHY ARE YOU COMING WITH ME TO SCHOOL?!

AOI TOLD ME TO.

HE WAS WORRIED SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN, SO HE ORDERED ME TO PROTECT YOU!

NO ONE TOUCHED THE RING WE LEFT OUTSIDE THE GATE LAST NIGHT...

...WHICH MEANS HE ONLY WANTS YOURS.

...

BUT I'M MORE WORRIED WITH YOU AROUND...

OH, IS THIS AN AYAKASHI TOO?!

TWP

MY POINT EXACTLY!

HERE GOES NOTH-ING!

UM...

...

GOOD MORNING, HIDAKA.

OH.

TMP

YOU ASKED ME ABOUT MY RING YESTERDAY.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE PERSON WHO MADE IT?

B-BUMP

B-BUMP

TMP TMP

SORRY, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME.

...

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

IF YOU HANG AROUND ME, YOU'LL BE CURSED, YOU KNOW?

SMIRK

FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS?

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS.

WELL...

DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS? MAYBE HE HAS THAT POWER.

WHO DOES THAT HUMAN THINK HE IS?

HE'S GOING TO CURSE A MEMBER OF THE MOMOCHI FAMILY?

I DON'T SENSE HE HAS ANY AYAKASHI POWER.

FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS ARE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO CAN CONTROL FOX SPIRITS.

BUT...

THEN...

DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG

I HEARD A KID EVEN DIED BECAUSE OF THE CURSE.

SOMEONE'S REMARKS JUST SORT OF SPREAD.

...BECAUSE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WOULD KEEP GETTING SICK AND OTHER KIDS HE HAD ARGUMENTS WITH WOULD GET HURT.

PEOPLE STARTED SAYING HE WAS CURSED...

NOW HE'S A TOTAL MISANTHROPE... PEOPLE SURE CHANGE.

...SAID HE WAS CHEERFUL AND ENERGETIC.

THOSE WHO KNEW HIDAKA WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER...

SW
F
F

I KNOW!

HIMARI, SOMETHING IS FOLLOWING US!

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

SW
F
F
HUFF
HUFF

...

IT'S CAUGHT UP TO US, HIMARI!

HIDAKA ISN'T DOING THIS!

IT'S PROB-ABLY...

WISP

AH! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

I WANT YOU TO FULFILL YOUR PROMISE.

I'M INTERESTED IN THAT RING...

I WANT IT.

SKUP

HIDAKA

YOU PROMISED, REMEMBER?

I'M TAKING YOUR PINKIE.

HIDAKA

AOI!

「未完了…？　ふざけ…」

「ふざけ…ないで」

A01

アアアア

アグ…

アグ…

アグ…

アグ…

TELL ME.

HIDAKA

WHY ARE YOU DOING BAD THINGS TO PEOPLE WHO GET INVOLVED WITH HIDAKA?

IT ISN'T WHAT HIDAKA WANTS...

HEH HEH...

...BUT THIS THING IS CURSING PEOPLE.

You did it, wooden smart phone!

IT WORKED!

YES, I'M FINE. THANKS, AOI.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HIMARI?

DON'T DO ANYTHING RECK-LESS.

THEY NEED TO BE CURSED!

THE HIDAKA FAMILY ARE AT FAULT FOR NEGLECTING US...

VISH

THEY NEED TO SUFFER MORE!

HEH

HEH

HEH

HEH

HEH

DASH

AOI!

THERE'S NO NEED TO GO AFTER HIM, HIMARI.

AH...!

TMP

HIDAKA IS SUFFERING...

...BECAUSE OF AN AYAKASHI...

...AOI.

YES.

SHE

BUT...

AOI'S HAND...

YES...

IT MAKES ME FEEL AT EASE.

...YOU'RE BEING TOO RECKLESS.

HIMARI...

AH, THAT'S FINE THEN.

HUH?! I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING.

I didn't have a chance to look!

YUP

DID YOU SEE THE AYAKASHI'S FACE UNDER THAT MASK?

THAT'S FOR THE BEST.

Chapter 12/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 13

BYE-BYE!

SEE YOU!

THAT WAS AMAZING.

KICK THE CAN!

KLANK

RAAH

RAAH

THAT CAN WENT FLYING!

HA HA HA

YOU DISTRACTED THE GUY WHO WAS "IT"...

...SO I COULD SNEAK PAST HIM!

WE REALLY ARE INVINCIBLE...

...RIGHT?

WU

IS THIS A MEMORY FROM CHILD-HOOD...

AGAIN ...

AND AGAIN ...

...

Sunset Fox: Part 1

CHAPTER 13

...OR JUST A DREAM?

...

HUH?

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, HIMARI?

HIDAKA IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THAT AYAKASHI...

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO SAVE HIM?

I CAN'T GO MEET HIM.

THERE ISN'T MUCH I CAN DO.

I KNOW!

WHY DON'T WE INVITE HIDAKA TO MOMOCHI HOUSE? YOU TWO WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THEN.

HIMARI...

AOI?

BUT...

TMP
TMP
TMP
I'M GOING. DON'T WORRY, I WON'T BE HELD BACK A YEAR.
ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL? LISTEN...
HAYATO?
...
?
KREE
NO, SOMEONE IS OUTSIDE...
HELLO! LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER!

...

SINCE WE BOTH WALK IN THE SAME DIREC-TION.

IT'S TOUGH WALKING TO SCHOOL FROM THE MOUNTAINS, ISN'T IT?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO HANG AROUND ME.

BECAUSE I'LL BE CURSED?

THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL! I'LL BE FINE!

POIK

CHARMS WON'T HELP...

HIDAKA.

I KNOW BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO PEOPLE WHO GET INVOLVED WITH YOU.

THAT'S WHY YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO AVOID EVERYONE.

...

FWASH

VOON

HIDAKA

THESE ARE...

...MY SCIS-SORS?!

YESTERDAY, I WAS CHASED BY A MASKED CHILD.

HE DROPPED THESE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I WAS A LITTLE SCARED, BUT I'M FINE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM.

HE'S AN AYAKASHI, RIGHT?

BUT I SENSED SOMETHING WAS THERE...

HIDAKA IS BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CURSE!

YOU SHOULDN'T LET THAT MASKED AYAKASHI HAVE HIS WAY ANY LONGER.

A DEAL?

I CAN'T IGNORE THIS.

I'M ALREADY INVOLVED NOW.

SWFF

THAT MASKED AYAKASHI WILL RETURN.

...

I'M TO BLAME FOR THIS HAPPENING.

...

I MADE A DEAL WITH HIM!

TALK TO ME.

LET'S SOLVE THIS TOGETHER.

PLEASE.

DON'T FACE THIS ALL ALONE.

THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO TELL...

IT'S A SILLY STORY.

IT'S RUMORED MY FAMILY COMES FROM A LINE OF FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS.

BUT WE'RE REALLY ORDINARY.

MY DAD WAS JUST A WHITE-COLLAR WORKER...

...AND I'VE NEVER SENSED ANYTHING SPIRITUAL.

BUT WE HAD A SMALL SHRINE IN THE BACK-YARD.

I KNEW MY MOTHER PLACED OFFERINGS THERE EVERY MORNING.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I HAD A CHILDHOOD FRIEND I WAS REALLY CLOSE TO.

HE WAS REALLY SMART...

...AND OUR PERSON-ALITIES WERE DIFFERENT ...

...BUT WE GOT ALONG REALLY WELL.

OR RATHER ...

...I THINK I DID.

I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS FACE OR HIS NAME.

I WAS WITH HIM FROM MORNING TO NIGHT.

WHEN WE TEAMED UP...

...NO ONE STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST US.

HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?

SHOULD WE SURPRISE EVERYONE?!

OH.

HOLD ON...

HE WAS GOOD AT FINDING FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS.

HERE. A GOOD-LUCK CHARM.

WHEN HE GAVE ME THAT RING...

I THOUGHT WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO YOUR GOOD-LUCK CHARM.

THAT'S AMAZING, HAYATO!

...I SURPRISINGLY GOT BETTER AT EVERYTHING, EVEN MY STUDIES.

BUT...

...ONE DAY...

HE STARTED AVOIDING ME.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

IT REALLY ANNOYED ME.

HE'S...

...BETTER AT STUDYING AND SPORTS...

...WHEN I'M NOT AROUND.

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T NEED ME.

BUT...

OH YEAH, THE GOOD-LUCK CHARM.

IF I GIVE HIM A GOOD-LUCK CHARM MADE BY ME...

...HE MIGHT THINK BETTER OF ME...

...AND THINGS WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL.

HE MIGHT BE MY FRIEND AGAIN.

SHALL I GRANT YOUR WISH?

AND AT THAT MO-MENT ...

I CAN'T DO...

...WHAT HE DOES SO EASILY.

BA-M

WHY?

WHY CAN'T I FIND ONE?!

WHY?

A VOICE FROM THE SHRINE?!

TMP...

REALLY?

...

TELL ME YOUR WISH. I'LL MAKE IT COME TRUE.

JOLT

...I'LL TAKE THAT WHICH YOU CHERISH MOST.

IT'S TRUE.

BUT IN RETURN ...

FINE! GRANT ME MY WISH!

VOOSH

UHH...

...

THAT WHICH I CHERISH MOST...

GRIP

...HE'S SURE TO THINK BETTER OF ME.

WITH THIS...

NO ONE AT SCHOOL ...

...AND NO ONE IN TOWN...

BUT THE NEXT DAY...

...HE DISAP-PEARED.

I WAS GOING TO GIVE HIM THIS CHARM!

WHY?! HE WAS HERE!

SUDDENLY I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.

...COULD REMEMBER HIS NAME OR FACE. IT WAS LIKE HE NEVER EXISTED.

...I HAD TRADED AWAY MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

THAT'S WHEN I KNEW...

I'LL TAKE THAT WHICH YOU CHERISH MOST.

THE DEAL I MADE AT THAT SHRINE MAY NEVER HAVE TRULY HAPPENED.

...MIGHT ONLY EXIST IN THE DREAM I ALWAYS HAVE.

BUT THIS WHOLE STORY...

I WANTED TO REPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND INSTEAD I SOLD OFF MY FRIEND.

BUT...

SHU

I STILL HAVE THE LUCKY CHARM HE MADE FOR ME.

MY FRIEND... EXISTED.

NO ONE BELIEVES ME, OF COURSE.

BUT–

I BELIEVE YOU.

YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND STILL EXISTS.

SO...

MOMOCHI...

MY FRIEND DISAP-PEARED BECAUSE OF SOMETHING TRIVIAL I WISHED FOR...

I REALLY MADE THAT DEAL.

I THINK MY FRIEND IS CURSING ME.

AOI ISN'T THE ONE WHO CURSED HIM.

LET'S DISPEL THAT CURSE.

...

I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

AOI!

...

HIDAKA ...

...HASN'T COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN YOU.

THE DAY I WANDERED INTO MOMOCHI HOUSE...

...WAS COINCIDENTALLY THE SAME DAY HAYATO MADE THAT WISH AT A SHRINE.

HE BELIEVES HE'S THE REASON I VANISHED.

HE MAY THINK I'M THE ONE CURSING HIM...

...BUT IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS HAPPENING TO HAYATO...

THE HIDAKA FAMILY ARE AT FAULT FOR NEGLECTING US...

...IT'S PROBABLY THE WORK OF THE HOST OF THAT SHRINE— THE MASKED AYAKASHI.

I GET IT...

"THAT WHICH YOU CHERISH MOST"...

MMBL

NEVER MIND.

HM?

LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

FWIP

...SHE PLACED SHIMENAWA AROUND THIS PLACE AND TOLD ME NOT TO COME HERE AGAIN.

WHEN I TOLD MY MOM I HEARD A VOICE COMING FROM THE SHRINE...

SHIME-NAWA... BARRIER ROPES.

THE SHRINE IS THIS WAY.

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

THIS PLACE...

IT'S OLD AND DIRTY, HUH.

YOU WANTED TO DO SOMETHING HERE?

DASH

YEAH!

HIDAKA CAN'T HEAR THOSE VOICES.

I MUST DO THIS!

SHUP

WHO ARE YOU?

I'LL CURSE YOU...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!

...

WHO IS THERE ...?

JOLT

THERE IT IS.

I WILL CURSE YOU...

HIDAKA ?

I WILL CURSE YOU...

NOW LET'S CLEAN UP THIS SHRINE!

WHAT?!

THAT SHOULD DO IT.

FWSSS

WHAT IS THIS? IT SMELLS GOOD... MY POWER...IS DRAINING...

URGH ...

SLAP

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

YOU WANT US TO CLEAN?

I BROUGHT A TON OF CLEANING TOOLS! ♪

KLIFT KLAFT KLIFT KLAFT

WE NEED TO START SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION.

I HAVE SOME VERMILION PAINT IN MY CLOSET. I USED IT ON TOY MODELS WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

HIDAKA?

WE SHOULD PROBABLY REPAINT IT, RIGHT?

TMP

SCHEEZ

...

I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE US FOR EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPENED.

WE'LL CLEAN YOU UP TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

SQUIK SQUIK

WHAT... IS THIS...

YES!

WELL...

DON'T DO ANY MORE BAD THINGS TO HIM.

HIDAKA IS VERY KIND, ISN'T HE?

OUR BROTHER IS STILL ANGRY...

HUH?

TMP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE MOMOCHI FAMILY? FROM THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS?

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US?

YES, I'M HIMARI MOMOCHI.

OH

YOU MENTIONED YOUR NAME WAS MOMOCHI...

CLEAN THE SHRINE?

I CAME TO CLEAN THE SHRINE WITH HIDAKA...

PARDON THE INTRU-SION.

BOW

HAYATO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT...

LONG AGO, MANY PEOPLE IN THE HIDAKA FAMILY WERE BORN WITH MYSTERIOUS POWERS.

MY LATE FATHER SPOKE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE MOMOCHI FAMILY TO DISCUSS OUR FOX SPIRIT PROBLEM...

THEY WERE KNOWN AS FOX SHAPE-SHIFTERS IN THIS AREA.

AMONG OUR ANCES-TORS...

...THERE WERE A FEW WHO HELPED PEOPLE BY USING THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL YOKAI KNOWN AS KUDAGITSUNE.

*Kudagitsune, or "pipe foxes," are often used as familiars.

BUT OUR BLOOD-LINE GRADU-ALLY LOST ITS POWERS.

MY FATHER WAS THE LAST HIDAKA WHO COULD SENSE THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

HAYATO AND I NEVER INHERITED SUCH POWERS...

...SO MY FATHER BUILT THIS SMALL SHRINE IN OUR YARD...

...TO END OUR TIES WITH THINGS NOT OF OUR WORLD.

I'VE MOVED THE FOXES THERE.

MAKE SURE YOU PLACE OFFERINGS BEFORE IT EVERY DAY.

I OBEYED MY FATHER'S WISHES EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH.

BUT...

BACK WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, HAYATO SAID HE HAD MADE A DEAL WITH THE SHRINE...

...AND SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A CURSE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

LISTEN...

THE MEMBERS OF THE HIDAKA FAMILY PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE KUDAGITSUNE.

SO THAT'S WHY...

EVEN IF SOMEONE WANTS TO END A CONTRACT WITH AN AYAKASHI, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

TO FORCE AN UNRULY AYAKASHI TO CALM ITSELF...

...THEY MAY HAVE PLACED UNNECESSARY SEALS AND WARDS...

...MAKING THE AYAKASHI SUFFER IN A SMALL CAGE.

I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE SPECIAL POWERS MYSELF...

...BUT THAT'S WHAT A FAMILY MEMBER TOLD ME.

AYAKASHI DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S CONVENIENT FOR HUMANS.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE CLEAN-ING THE SHRINE?

WHAT PURPOSE DOES THAT SERVE?

WELL, THIS IS IN PREPARATION...

I WANT TO TAKE STEPS TOWARDS TALKING TO THE HOSTS OF THIS SHRINE ONCE WE'RE DONE CLEANING IT.

STEPS?

UMM... FOR EXAMPLE, PLACING THESE SHIMENAWA HERE HAS HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

OH

THEN IF I HADN'T PLACED THESE...

WAIT! NOT YET.

GRAB

KRAK

ARRGH...

!

OH NO! I'M STILL NOT READY...

THEY'VE BEEN RELEASED!

FLU
FF

KUDAGITSUNE BRING GOOD FORTUNE TO ANY FAMILY WHO LETS THEM INTO THEIR HOUSE.

BUT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN NUMBER.

I HAD NO IDEA THERE WOULD BE SO MANY...

A HUMAN WHO COULD SENSE AYAKASHI MUST HAVE TRAPPED THEM IN THE SHRINE, BUT THEY MULTIPLIED IN THERE.

I DON'T KNOW. THE SHRINE SUDDENLY BURST OPEN AND THERE WAS A POWERFUL GUST OF WIND...

DASH

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

I'M SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU!

BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE ANY-MORE.

KUDA-GITSUNE!

GRWL

THE HIDAKA ...

HOW DARE YOU TRAP US IN THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT KUDA-GITSUNE?

NO ONE HERE CAN SEE YOU ANYMORE.

PLEASE UNDER-STAND...

MOMO-CHI...

CAN SHE SEE SOME-THING?

MR MR

...

I SEE. YOU'RE A MOMOCHI...

COME WITH ME!

...

YES..

...WHO CAN SEE US NOW...

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE...

YOUR BROTHER ?

...DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE.

BUT OUR BROTHER ...

FWOOM

!

HE SAID HE'LL TEACH THE MOMOCHI A LESSON.

...SAID HE FOUND A TASTY-LOOKING HUMAN THAT HE WILL DEVOUR TO BECOME A GREAT DEMON.

OUR BROTHER ...

SNFF

THEIR BROTHER IS PROBABLY THAT MASKED AYAKASHI.

...IS UP AHEAD.

WHY?

SNFF

MOMOCHI HOUSE...

YOU COULD'VE STAYED BEHIND.

HIDAKA ...

TMP TMP

UP AHEAD...

...IS THE ONE HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR...

HIDAKA...

WHY WOULD YOU THINK I'D LET YOU GO ALONE?

I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE FRIENDS.

AWOOSH

I FOUND YOU.

I WON'T LET YOU RETURN HOME!

HE WAS WAITING FOR US.

THE MASKED AYAKASHI IS HERE, ISN'T HE?

OH? THE HIDAKA KID IS HERE TOO. HOW PERFECT.

BEHOLD MY TERROR...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

THIS WAY, HIDAKA!

BUT YOUR HOUSE IS IN THE OPPOSITE DIREC-TION...

IT'S OKAY.

I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE!

I WANT TO GO HOME, BUT I CAN'T.

Chapter 13 End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER
14

Sunset Fox: Part 2

I THINK WE LOST HIM.

BUT WE'RE FARTHER AWAY FROM MY HOUSE.

IS HE STILL FOLLOWING US?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HE'S WAITING BEHIND US ON THE PATH TO MOMOCHI HOUSE. WE CAN'T TURN BACK.

ONCE THE SUN SETS, WE MIGHT GET LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS.

HEY, ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER...

YES, I THINK SO.

YOU THINK WE CAN DEAL WITH HIM WHEN WE REACH MOMOCHI HOUSE?

WE NEED TO FIND ANOTHER PATH QUICKLY!

THE DEAL I MADE WITH THAT KUDAGITSUNE AT THE SHINE...

...HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND DISAPPEARING?

YEAH.

I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE DETAILS YET, THOUGH.

FWISH

GASP

HE'S HERE! RUN!

MOMO-CHI!

I FOUND YOU.

THE TASTY-LOOKING HUMAN.

HE'LL CATCH ME!

?!

TMP

DON'T YOU RUN AWAY, GIRL.

I'M GOING TO DEVOUR YOU AND BECOME A GREAT DEMON.

TMP

TMP

TMP

HIDAKA!

YOU'RE THERE, AREN'T YOU, MY KUDAGITSUNE?

I'M REALLY SORRY!

I CAN'T SEE OR HEAR YOU.

SUFF

BUT...

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

I COULDN'T SEE YOU, BUT YOU WANTED ME TO KNOW YOU EXISTED.

SO YOU TRIED TO GRANT MY WISH, RIGHT?

BUT...

...I THOUGHT YOU TOOK MY FRIEND BECAUSE OF THAT DEAL...

...AND I DESPISED YOU FOR IT.

JUST AS I DESPISED EVERYONE WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE ME.

SO YOU SPREAD THAT CURSE...

...IN MY PLACE.

YOU NEED ME!

I'LL SHOW YOU MY POWER.

I'M YOUR FAITHFUL KUDAGITSUNE.

I WANTED TO PROVE MYSELF TO MY FRIEND.

I WANTED HIM TO NEED ME.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE APART FROM HIM.

LOOK OUT, HIDAKA!

...

IT... DIDN'T WORK, HUH?

VS

YOU ACCURSED HUMAN!

ACCURSED HUMAN...

...WHO NEVER SEES OR HEARS ME...

SHE

I HAVE TO STOP HIM BEFORE THIS GETS WORSE.

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND MY ANGER!

FWA SH

THUMP

CLOSE YOUR EYES, HIDAKA!

!

GRR!

A CHILDISH PRANK!

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! HURRY!

DASH

WE'RE SO CLOSE...

THERE!

...?!

DON'T THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE ME!

VISH

RA

YOU'VE ENTERED MY DIVINE REALM.

YOU'VE ENTERED MY DIVINE REALM.

GYAAH
KR
EK
K
FWK
YOU'RE JUST A YOUNG LITTLE FOX.
THAT SHOULD HAVE...
...CALMED YOU DOWN.

EH...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
"WHO THE HELL"?
YOU SHALL LEARN YOUR PLACE.
I AM THE MASTER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE. HOW DARE YOU ADDRESS ME THAT WAY.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

EH...

"WHO THE HELL"?

YOU SHALL LEARN YOUR PLACE.

I AM THE MASTER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE. HOW DARE YOU ADDRESS ME THAT WAY.

DUH

KR

GYAAH

YOU'RE JUST A YOUNG LITTLE FOX.

FWIK

...CALMED YOU DOWN.

THAT SHOULD HAVE...

E

K

K

...IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.

YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS ARE WELCOME TO RESIDE HERE...

HE DID IT!

REEL

THAT'S HIM!

OH

HUH?!

CAN HE SEE AOI INSIDE THE GROUNDS OF MOMOCHI HOUSE?

WHAT IS HE DOING IN THIS PLACE?

HIDAKA ...?

...

SHIFT

THAT FOX HAS AOI'S FACE!

I REMEMBER NOW.

MY FRIEND'S NAME IS...

FWAA

...AOI.

HE VANISHED-

SOF

THAT WAS MERELY A RECOLLECTION.

NOW THOSE RECOL-LECTIONS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO YOU...

...AND YOU'VE RECOVERED YOUR MEMORY.

THAT KUDAGITSUNE DIDN'T STEAL YOUR FRIEND IN RETURN FOR GRANTING YOUR WISH...

...RATHER HE TOOK YOUR MIND'S IMAGE OF HIM.

THAT YOUNG FOX NEVER HAD THE POWER TO ABDUCT ANYONE.

SO...

THEN WHY?

...IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT THAT YOUR FRIEND DISAPPEARED.

...

DO **YOU** KNOW WHY?!

TMP

TMP

TMP

HE EXISTED, BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM!

WHY DID AOI DISAPPEAR?

HE NO LONGER LIVES IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

YOU'RE SAYING ...

...I'LL NEVER MEET HIM AGAIN?

THEN...

...I'LL GO SEE HIM.

YOU CAN HELP ME MEET HIM, CAN'T YOU?

LISTEN.

THIS TIME...

...I'LL TRADE AWAY ANYTHING, EVEN MY SOUL...

PLEASE GRANT ME MY WISH!

I HATE THIS.

THIS HEAVY BURDEN OF GRIEF...

TAKE ME OVER TO YOUR SIDE...

PLEASE!

TMP

THAT IS SOMETHING I CANNOT DO.

THUD

SUF

VEEN

FOOSH

HE'LL BE FINE NOW.

TMP

HIDAKA?

YOU'VE REALLY...

...GROWN SO BIG, HAYATO.

GOOD MORNING!

KLAK

YOU AGAIN, HUH.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

CALL ME HIMARI.

LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

THEN...

POFF

THANK YOU...

...FOR YESTERDAY, HIMARI.

!

I...

I ONLY DID A BIT OF CLEANING... I DIDN'T DO ALL THAT MUCH.

BUT YOU, HIDAKA...

YOU CAN CALL ME HAYATO.

OH, OKAY. HAYATO...

HE SEEMS...

MY KUDAGITSUNE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED THANKS TO YOU.

...SO MUCH MORE RELAXED NOW.

ANYWAY, I'M GLAD.

NOW YOU WON'T HAVE THAT FOX CURSE TO WORRY ABOUT.

AND YOU WON'T BE TORMENTED BY BAD MEMORIES ABOUT THAT LUCKY CHARM.

ARE YOU REFERRING TO THAT BIG CHARM BAG YOU CARRIED WITH YOU?

NO, NOT THAT.

Though, that was pretty useful.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GOOD-LUCK CHARM YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND AOI GAVE YOU.

HUH?

MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND? WHO DO YOU MEAN?

HE'LL BE FINE NOW.

I GUESS THERE WAS AN AOKI IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE RIGHT...

I JUST REALIZED...

...WHAT AOI MEANT.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

BUT ONCE THOSE MEMORIES WERE RETURNED...

...SO HAYATO ALWAYS FELT LIKE HE WAS MISSING SOMETHING.

THAT MASKED FOX SPIRIT STOLE HAYATO'S RECOLLECTION OF AOI...

THIS TIME, HE'LL FORGET EVERYTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

HE'LL BE FINE NOW.

TAKE ME OVER TO YOUR SIDE!

I CAN TELL...

...HOW AOI FEELS...

...AND HAYATO FEELS...

NOTHING.

LET'S GO.

...EVEN IF...

...NO ONE CAN-BREACH THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM.

Chapter 14/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

A Treasure Trove of Surprises?!

CHAPTER 15

WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE?

THUD BAM THUD THUD KRASH BAM THUD THUD

AAAH!

VISH

I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM...

YUKARI, IT'S THE LITTLE FOX...

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

YOU DON'T SOUND FINE...

AOI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I-I'M FINE...

KICK

GR AB

CATCH!

?!

NOW!

GRWL

I WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT YOU SAY.

HOW DARE YOU RUN AMOK IN OUR HOUSE.

KLUP

OH

ISE!

I'LL CURSE YOU.

THE KUDAGITSUNE BROTHERS LEFT THE HIDACHIS AND NOW RESIDE IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.

THEY'VE SETTLED IN PEACEFULLY, BUT THE ELDEST...

THAT'S SCARY, HUH.

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO CUTE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'M NOT TELLING!

THEN CAN I CALL YOU KON?

I'LL CURSE YOU!

AOI WOULD NEVER DO THAT.

THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T WORRY.

SQUIRM

SQUIRM

I'LL CURSE YOU!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT MY NAME...

...AND MAKE ME ONE OF YOUR SHIKIGAMI LIKE THESE GUYS.

I WON'T TRUST ANYONE WHO TRICKS PEOPLE!

WHAT?!

OH

I HEARD SOMEONE ELSE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT...

Why me?

...AND GET MY REVENGE ON YOU!

PLIF PLIF

I'M GOING TO DEVOUR THAT TASTY-LOOKING HUMAN AND BECOME A GREAT DEMON...

I HAVEN'T TRICKED ANYONE.

KEEP LYING WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

If you devour someone strong, you'll become strong too!

DID THAT HIDEOUS DEMON TURN THIS CUTE FOX AGAINST US?!

KASHA IS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.

DON'T BELIEVE HIM, KON.

KASHA ?!

!

I-I KNEW YOU TURNED KON AGAINST US!

SHE SHE

I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH A LITTLE FOX.

TWO TWO

WHO ARE YOU CALLING A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING?

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

HERE, AOI, I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.

?!

A BOX?!

I WAS HAVING TROUBLE EMPTYING IT. THIS IS PERFECT FOR YOU.

WHO'D ACCEPT A GIFT FROM YOU? GET IT OUT OF HERE!

LET'S PUT SOME STRONG SEALS ON THIS AND PLACE IT DEEP IN THE STOREHOUSE.

...ANYTHING HE LEAVES BEHIND CAN'T BE GOOD.

AT ANY RATE...

KASHA!

...SO STUBBORN. HEH HEH...

YOU'RE STILL...

WHOA! ISE!

I DON'T HEAR ANY-THING.

LET ME CHECK.

HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT EMPTYING IT. IS THERE SOMETHING INSIDE?

WHY AM I THE EXAM-PLE?

IF YOU OPEN IT, YOU MIGHT TURN INTO AN OLD MAN LIKE IN THAT FOLKTALE.

SPEAKING OF BOXES...

PEEK

A TREASURE BOX...

SHUP

WE NEED TO SEAL THIS...

!

IT'S MINE NOW!

HUH?!

NO, THAT'S...

I'VE HEARD ALL I NEED TO KNOW! THE GREAT DEMON KASHA LEFT THIS BOX BEHIND!

IF I OPEN IT, I'M SURE TO BECOME POWERFUL TOO!

WHAT?

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY!

My true identity?

DASH

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID!

THAT BOX IS DANGEROUS. WE NEED TO GO AFTER HIM!

HE'S SUCH A SORE LOSER...

HEY! COME ON OUT.

SHUK

IT'S NO USE RUNNING AWAY!

YOU'RE GOING TO SCARE HIM, ISE.

COME ON OUT!

COME OUT!

IS HE FARTHER BACK IN THE HOUSE?

LET'S GO LOOK.

SHUK

GRRWL

GNAW

GNAW

WHAT'S WITH THIS BOX? IT WON'T OPEN.

KON?

ARE YOU THERE, KON?

JOLT

KLATT

THERE!

...AND THEY WERE TOO TIMID TO HIDE ANYWHERE FAR AWAY...

HEY, COME ON OUT.

SMP

WHEN I WAS AT THE ORPHANAGE, I PLAYED WITH THE YOUNGER KIDS OFTEN...

MRR

AH!

MY NAME ISN'T KON!

...KON?

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT AOI IS FOOLING PEOPLE...

I WON'T TELL AOI WHERE YOU ARE.

WHY WOULD I TELL YOU?

THEN TELL ME YOUR NAME.

SMILE

BLAB

IT'S TAMAMO.

!

MY NAME IS HIMARI-HIMARI MOMOCHI.

NICE TO MEET YOU, TAMAMO!

WAIT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO TELL YOU MY NAME.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO, BUT...

TAMAMO!

THAT'S A REALLY CUTE NAME!

MRFF

MRFF

HUH?

OH!

WHY DID I SAY MY NAME?

WHAT?!

BLAB

BLAB

BUT I THINK YOUR NAME IS REALLY COOL.

HUH?

BLAB

HALT

BUT I HATE AOI...

EVERYONE WHO LIVES HERE IS NICE, SO I DON'T HATE THEM.

BLAB

HUH?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

...BECAUSE HE TRICKED ME!

A BLUE LIGHT?

Glow

W-WELL...

WHY DO YOU HATE AOI?

WHY CAN'T I STOP MYSELF FROM TALKING?!

DASH

WAIT!

TOSS

I JUST HATE HIM!

I SEE...

TAMAMO?

I DIDN'T INTEND TO DECEIVE HIM...

IS THAT HOW HE SEES ME?

HM? WHAT IS IT, HIMARI?

AOI...

AOI!

IT SEEMS HE REALLY DISLIKES ME.

SORRY, I OVERHEARD YOU.

...KNOWING THAT HAYATO WILL NEVER REMEMBER YOU?

ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT...

WHAT...?

HUH?!

OOPS.

AH

AH

WHY DID I SAY THAT JUST NOW?

I DIDN'T WANT TO PRY...

I...

...

I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE, BUT...

THEN WHY DID YOU ASK?

HMM...

UM... NO... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

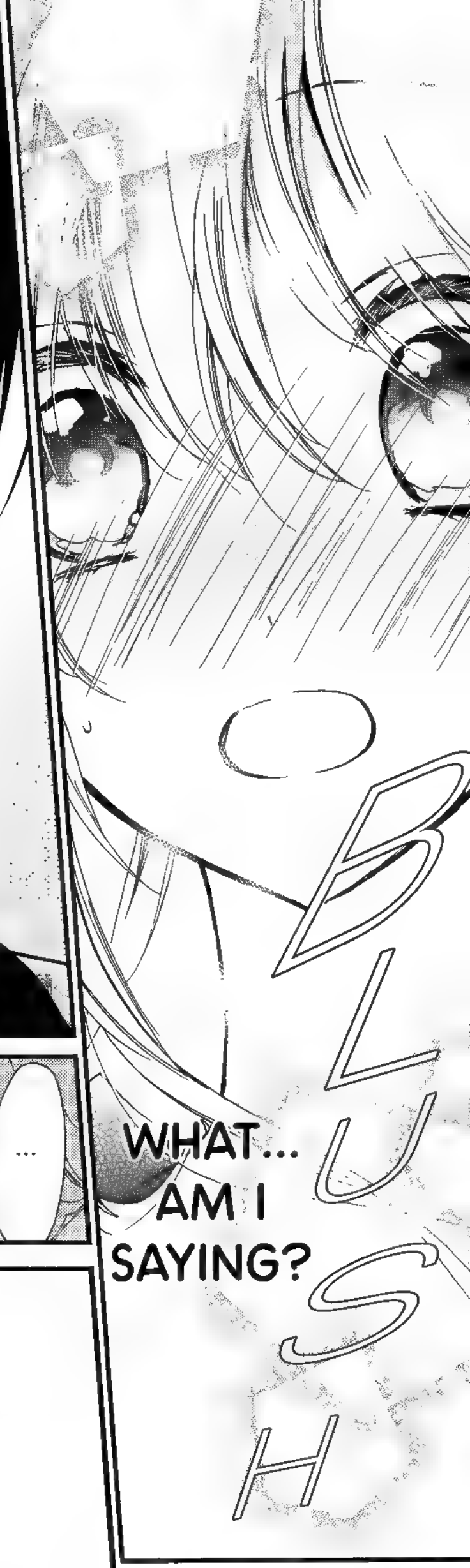
AOI...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO ASK THAT.

I...

BECAUSE ...

...I LOVE YOU.



WHAT... AM I SAYING?

IT'S THE BOX.

AAGH! WHAT AM I SAYING?!

I HOPE WE HAVE RICE CAKES AT SNACK TIME! ♪

BLAB

...HAS THE POWER TO MAKE PEOPLE REVEAL THEIR SECRETS.

SEE? IT LOOKS LIKE THIS BOX...

LET ME BORROW IT FOR A SECOND.

WHAT?!

HEY!

I WANT TO HAVE MORE THINGS TO DO WHEN I'M HUMAN.

HERE!

BLAB

TAKE THIS!

POOF

BLAB

HERE!

TODAY...I DID A BAD JOB OF PUTTING ON MAKEUP...

ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT THE BOX.

IT'S THE BLUE LIGHT FROM WITHIN THE BOX.

AND WHY I SAID...

BLUSH

OH, ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID...

AH!

WELL, UM, THAT WAS...

!

SO THAT'S WHY TAMAMO SUDDENLY TOLD ME HIS NAME!

N...

NOW THAT WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER, YOU'RE LIKE FAMILY...

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

LIKE FAMILY, HUH? THAT'S TRUE.

OH...

YOU COULD USE THAT BOX TO PROVE TO TAMAMO...

...THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DECEIVING HIM.

...

IF I USE THIS BOX...?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

IN THAT CASE, LET'S GET THINGS READY!

I'LL CALL YUKARI AND ISE.

OKAY.

TMP TMP TMP

...

AHHH

I SEE...

SHE THINKS OF ME AS FAMILY...

I...

...GUESS THAT'S... FOR THE BEST...

YEAH ...

I SEE A BOX HERE THAT LOOKS LIKE AN OBVIOUS TRAP!

OH

AND THE NOTE IS SUSPI-CIOUS...

What's inside will make you stronger.

FO OM P

HEY!

SNIFF

BUT IT SMELLS NICE...

GLOOM

SHUCKS.

GLOOM

I DROPPED THE BOX.

I SHOULD CURSE THEM...

GRWWL

WHOA... BROTHERS...

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

BROTHER, LET'S GO!

TO OUR WELCOMING PARTY!

HE'S HERE. COME ON OVER, TAMAMO!

UHH...

PEER

UHH...

BUT AOI'S HERE, RIGHT?

UHH...

NO ONE WILL DECEIVE YOU.

LOOK.

POKK

POK

THEY'RE YUKARI'S SPECIAL INARIZUSHI! ♪ IF YOU EAT THEM, YOU'LL GROW BIG AND STRONG!

HISS

WE WEREN'T TRYING TO FOOL YOU.

Open it

IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK?!

WHY DID YOU LEAVE THAT SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING BOX AND SEND MY BROTHERS FOR ME?

THIS BOX IS FILLED WITH AYAKASHI FIREFLIES THAT DEVOUR SECRETS.
I HAVE NO SECRETS NOW, YOUNG FOX.
THE NUE...
AOI IS...
HUH?

AOI IS...

HUH?

THE NUE...

THIS BOX IS FILLED WITH AYAKASHI FIREFLIES THAT DEVOUR SECRETS.

I HAVE NO SECRETS NOW, YOUNG FOX.

I THOUGHT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THINGS LIKE MEN.

ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY, YOUNG FOX?

SKFF

PANIC

PANIC

FIREFLIES THAT DEVOUR SECRETS?

SO THAT'S WHY I SAID MY NAME...

I WON'T RUN AWAY!

...THE ELDEST OF MY BROTHERS! SOMEDAY I'LL BECOME A NINE-TAILED FOX AYAKASHI!

I'M...

SIGH

WHAT?

YOU ACCUSE OTHERS OF TREACHERY, AND YET YOU'RE FULL OF SECRETS. HOW PETTY.

THEN TELL ME HOW I DECEIVED YOU!

UHH...

UHH...

NUE?! IF YOU SCARE HIM, IT'LL HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

...

GLOW

UHH...

GLOW

TH-THEY'RE GOING TO EAT ME!

AAAH!

GLOW

GLOW

I AM THE MASTER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE. MY NAME IS KNOWN IN OVER THREE THOUSAND WORLDS!

I WON'T LET YOU CRITICIZE ME WITHOUT REASON.

NOW TELL ME!

HE LOOKED LIKE MY MOTHER.

UGH, I CAN'T STOP TALKING...

BECAUSE...

WHEN I FIRST SAW THE NUE...

...I-I THOUGHT HE WAS BEAUTIFUL...

BLUSH

HYOOOO

WHAT?!

SO...

YOU THOUGHT THE NUE WAS YOUR MOTHER WHEN YOU FIRST SAW HIM...

...AND YOU FELT DECEIVED WHEN YOU FOUND OUT HE WAS A MAN?

NOD NOD

I'LL CURSE HIM!

DON'T CRY AND EAT AT THE SAME TIME.

MNCH MNCH

This is problematic...

AOI.

I think you've been taken in by his cuteness!

IT'S REALLY EASY TO TELL WITH MY CHEST IN PLAIN SIGHT!

I FEEL LIKE IT'S PARTLY THE NUE'S FAULT SINCE HE HAS THE TAIL OF A FOX...

SWFF

AOI...

...

I...

WHEN YOU APPEARED AS THE NUE, I WAS SURPRISED, BUT YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN, RIGHT?

HUH?

...

...DOESN'T WANT TO HOLD THE BOX.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

KASHA!

DON'T CAUSE ANY MORE PROBLEMS FOR US!

SURE, FINE...

IT'S FINALLY EMPTY.

OH, THERE'S NOTHING IN THE BOX.

IT WASN'T THAT HE COULDN'T OPEN IT...

OH...

I HAVE NO SECRETS...

SO THANK YOU.

ZZZZZ

OH?

HE'S FALLEN ASLEEP.

THIS WILL MAKE A GOOD PILLOW.

A..

...PILLOW?!

What a trouble-maker!

AFTER MAKING A FUSS, GETTING ROWDY AND EATING ALL THAT FOOD, HE GOES TO SLEEP ON YOUR LAP?

KIDS WHO STILL DEPEND ON THEIR PARENTS ARE SUCH A HANDFUL.

THAT'S NOT TRUE IN THIS CASE.

KUDAGITSUNE MULTIPLY FOR NO REASON.

HE YEARNS FOR A MOTHER BECAUSE HE'S NEVER HAD ONE.

HEH

HE REMINDS ME OF WHEN AOI WAS LITTLE...

I WAS NEVER THAT SPOILED.

WHO'D YEARN FOR A MOTHER?!

JUST THINKING ABOUT MINE GIVES ME THE CHILLS...

YOUR MOM IS PRETTY SCARY, HUH.

I HAVE AN ADORABLE YOUNGER SISTER.

MY PARENTS ARE BOTH REALLY GOOD-LOOKING.

HIMARI...

SOME AYAKASHI HAVE PARENTS TOO.

I SEE...

EVERYONE IS HERE...

JUST LIKE HUMANS.

...LIVING IN MOMOCHI HOUSE, THE HOME MY PARENTS LEFT ME...

BY THE WAY, YUKARI...

YOU MUST HAVE HAD A STRICT UPBRING-ING...

...TO BECOME SUCH A MASTER HOUSEKEEPER.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT...

I WAS BORN TO A NORMAL FAMILY.

UM... A WATER SERPENT FAMILY?

NO.

I...

...USED TO BE HUMAN.

I BECAME AN AYAKASHI FOR THE SIN OF EATING HUMAN FLESH.

Chapter 15/End

Momochi has reached volume 4. I've wanted to write the Hidaka storyline since the very start. I'm thrilled that I've finally done it. Whenever I see the sunset, I remember my childhood. I'm more likely to see the sunrise, though...

Ayashoumon

Aya Shouto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

In summer when the sun is bright, I like how white fabric almost looks light purple in the shade. I think the two characters on the cover would look good in the rain, but I chose to depict them on an early summer afternoon.

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25. Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels, sewing and daydreaming. She currently lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

Volume 4
Shojo Beat Edition

Story and Art by Aya Shouoto

Translation JN Productions
Touch-Up Art & Lettering Inori Fukuda Trant
Design Fawn Lau
Editor Nancy Thistlethwaite

MOMOCHISANCHI NO AYAKASHI OUJI Volume 4
© Aya SHOUOTO 2014
Edited by KADOKAWA SHOTEN
First published in Japan in 2014 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned
in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, April 2016

www.viz.com

RATED
T
FOR TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
THE DEMON PRINCE OF MOMOCHI HOUSE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up.
ratings.viz.com

www.shojobeat.com